

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /097 W
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P R 121416Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8786

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FOR AMBASSADOR SMITH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, ENRG, DM

SUBJ: STATUS REPORT ON MOBIL INDEMNIFICATION NEGOTIATIONS

REF: ABIDJAN 7311

1. APPRECIATE INFO REFTEL CONCERNING MOBIL COUNTERPROPLSAL
AND INSIGHT THAT PB AND TOTAL SETTLEMENTS WERE MUTUALLY SATIS-
FACTORY.

2. EMBASSY FEELS THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN (GPRB) ARE ON UPSWING FOLLOWING
SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF CHANCERY/RESIDENCE ISSUE AND APPARENT
CONCORD ON BRIDGE PROJECT. AT THE SAME TIME, BRIDGE CONTRACT
DUE FOR SIGNING END OF JULY HAS STILL NOT BEEN SIGNED DUE
TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES WITH SANDERS & THOMAS TRANSLATION/
SECRETARIAL STAFF. IN THE MEANTIME, NELLO TEER HAS COME
FORWARD WITH SECOND, MORE ATTRACTIVE PROPOSAL
WHICH WOULD HAVE THEM UNDERTAKE ALL CONSTRUCTION -- PART
TO BE FUNDED BY USAID, PART BY GPRB. THIS PROPOSAL HAS
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BEEN FORWARDED COMPETENT GPRB AUTHORITIES, AND THEY NOW

STUDYING. FINAL SIGNING DATE SET NLT AUGUST 15.

3. IN VIEW THIS ALTERATION OF BRIDGE PROJECT DETAILS, AND PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT BRIDGE PROJECT HAS TOO OFTEN AND TOO REGULARLY BEEN LINKED WITH MOBIL INDEMNIFICATION QUESTION, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT MESSRS. DUNN AND FREIXA MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER DELAYING THEIR VISIT UNTIL GPRB RESPONSE ON NEW NELLO TEER PROPOSAL IS RECEIVED AND CONTRACT SIGNED, THUS COMPLETELY SEPARATING TWO QUESTIONS. AT VERY LATEST, WEEK OF AUGUST 23-27 SHOULD SEE THIS MATTER RESOLVED ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

4. PAO (CURRENTLY CHARGE' A.I.L FREDERICK E.V. LA SOR AND ECON OFFICER DAVID NALL PLEASED TO GIVE WHATEVER INSIGHTS WE CAN INTO CURRENT ATMOSPHEREICS WHEN MSSRS. DUNN AND FREIXA ARRIVE. INCOMING CHARGE KENNETH THOMPSON, WHO SHOULD BE HERE BY END THIS WEEK, WILL PROBABLY WANT TO SIT IN ON BRIEFING TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH DUNN AND FREIXA.
LA SOR

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